

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD SCOPE

1 Quality standard title

Acute upper gastrointestinal bleeding.

2 Quality standards

NICE quality standards are a set of specific, concise statements that act as markers of high-quality, cost-effective patient care, covering the treatment and prevention of different diseases and conditions.

NICE quality standards are derived from the best available evidence, such as NICE guidance and other evidence sources accredited by NICE. They are developed independently by NICE, in collaboration with the NHS, social care professionals, and their partners and service users, and address clinical and cost effectiveness, patient safety and patient experience.

This work is intended to help the NHS focus on delivering the best possible outcomes for patients.

The quality standard development process is described in detail on the NICE website (see section 5, 'Further information').

3 This standard

This scope defines what the standard will (and will not) examine. It is based on the referral from the Department of Health and has been drafted following the first meeting of the Topic Expert Group.

The areas that will be addressed by the standard are described in the following sections.

3.1 *Population*

3.1.1 *Groups that will be covered*

- a) Adults and young people (16 years and older) with acute variceal and non-variceal upper gastrointestinal bleeding.
- b) Adults and young people (16 years and older) in high dependency and intensive care units who are at high risk of acute upper gastrointestinal bleeding.

3.1.2 *Groups that will not be covered*

- a) Adults and young people (16 years and older) with chronic upper gastrointestinal bleeding.
- b) Children (15 years and younger).
- c) Adults and young people (16 years and older) with bleeding point lower than the duodenum.

3.2 *Healthcare settings*

- a) Primary, secondary and tertiary care.

3.3 *Areas of care*

The areas of care of a patient's pathway used to inform the development of the quality statements are set out in section 3.3.1. During the development of the standard the Topic Expert Group will decide which of these areas are suitable for quality statements and measures. The draft quality statements and measures will be the subject of a public consultation. The content of the quality standard statements may change during the process and may differ after consultation with stakeholders.

3.3.1 *Areas of care that will be considered*

- a) Risk assessment.
- b) Timing of endoscopy.

- c) Management of non-variceal bleeding (including endoscopic treatment and treatment after first or failed endoscopic treatment).
- d) Management of variceal bleeding (including prophylactic antibiotic therapy, endoscopic treatment of oesophageal and gastric varices, and transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunts [TIPS] for oesophageal and gastric varices).
- e) Control of bleeding and prevention of re-bleeding in patients on other medication.

3.3.2 Areas of care that will not be considered

- a) Treatment of *Helicobacter pylori* infection.
- b) Resuscitation and initial management.

3.4 Economic aspects

The Topic Expert Group will take into account both clinical and cost effectiveness when prioritising the quality statements to be included in the quality standard. The economic evidence will be considered, and the cost and commissioning impact of implementing the quality standard will be assessed.

3.5 Timing

The development of the quality standard will begin in November 2012.

4 Key development sources

Relevant NICE guidance (published and in development) will be used to develop the quality standard. If available, other NICE accredited sources will also be used.

4.1 Published sources

- [Acute upper gastrointestinal bleeding: management](#). NICE clinical guideline 141 (2012; NICE accredited).

4.2 NICE guidance under development

None.

4.3 Related NICE quality standards

4.3.1 Published standards

- [Patient experience in adult NHS services](#). NICE quality standard (2012).
- [Alcohol dependence and harmful alcohol use](#). NICE quality standard (2011).

4.3.2 Standards in development

Available from www.nice.org.uk

- Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease. NICE quality standard. Publication date to be confirmed.
- Resuscitation following major trauma and major blood loss. NICE quality standard. Publication date to be confirmed.

4.4 Key policy documents and national audits

Relevant national audits and policy documents will be used to inform the development of the quality standard.

- British Society of Gastroenterologists (2007) [UK comparative audit of upper gastrointestinal bleeding and the use of blood](#)

5 Further information

Information on the quality standard development process is provided in [Developing NICE quality standards: interim process guide](#) available from the [NICE website](#).

Information on the progress of the quality standard is also available from the [NICE website](#).